Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions of the claims.

1-13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously Presented) A method of managing transactions with multiple broker affiliates, each broker affiliate having an affiliate computer and an affiliate database connected thereto, which method comprises the steps of:

provided a central exchange computer system including an exchange server and an exchange database connected thereto;

connecting said exchange server to the affiliate computers of the broker affiliates via a distributed network;

receiving at said central exchange computer system information corresponding to goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates by uploading information stored in the affiliate databases to said exchange database via said distributed network;

storing in said exchange database the information corresponding to goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates and information concerning goods and/or services requested to purchase by customers;

maintaining a rules set at said central exchange computer system for an originating broker affiliate to identify goods and/or services available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers which are to be sold directly by the originating broker affiliate to customers and which are to be posted on a website of the originating broker affiliate and to identify goods and/or services available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by other broker affiliates which are to be posted on respective websites of the other broker affiliates and made available for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates, said rules set specifying transaction conditions with respect to goods and/or services available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by other broker affiliates for transactions conducted via said distributed network and specifying posting conditions for posting goods and/or services identified by

the originating broker affiliate as available for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates;

said broker affiliates controlling said rules set;

conducting real-time transactions involving goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates via said distributed network;

providing Internet (world wide web) access to said exchange server;

providing a web page and linking the web page to said affiliate computers;

providing a web-based bulletin board and access thereto by said broker affiliates;

posting to said web-based bulletin board the information corresponding to goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates and the information concerning goods and/or services requested to purchase by customers through the central exchange computer system;

preprogramming said central exchange computer system with said transaction conditions applicable to said broker affiliates for conducting transactions via said distributed network;

conducting transactions with respect to goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates via said distributed network according to said preprogrammed conditions;

managing transactions involving goods and/or services available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates pursuant to said transaction conditions via a web inventory sharing function of the distributed network;

reporting data with respect to transactions across said distributed network to said central exchange computer system;

said distributed network handling transactions with respect to goods and/or services available for sale to customers by the broker affiliates and recording, reporting and storing data with respect to said transactions;

providing a special order system enabling broker affiliates to sell non-inventory goods and/or services not in their possession;

receiving via the distributed network purchase requests from customers for said non-inventory goods and/ or services;

3

distributing via the distributed network purchase requests for said non-inventory goods and/ or services;

sending a purchase request from a customer received by a selling broker affiliate to said exchange server via a web service;

said exchange server parsing and building request documents;

said exchange server sending said request back to said selling broker affiliate;

said originating broker affiliate sending goods and/or services information to said exchange server concerning said request;

said exchange server sending selling information concerning said goods and/or services to said customer;

said customer confirming purchase to said exchange service;

said exchange server sending a transaction confirmation to said customer; and

said customer sending a transaction confirmation to said exchange server.

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional steps of:

enabling broker affiliate control of splitting of grouped goods and/or services according to predetermined procedures; and

offering such grouped goods and/or services according to such predetermined procedures.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 14, which includes the additional steps of:

enabling broker affiliate control of credit card purchasing of goods and/or services from customers; and

inputting to said central exchange computer system credit card information from said customers for use in transactions.

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein said goods and/or services comprise tickets to entertainment and/or sports events.

20.   (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19 wherein said tickets are specified by event, venue, date and seating section.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of managing electronic commerce transactions involving tickets to events, the method comprising:

receiving at a central exchange computer system information corresponding to tickets available for sale to customers by broker affiliates of the central exchange computer system;

providing a web inventory sharing function at the central exchange computer system for posting tickets available from an originating broker affiliate for sale to customers on a website of the originating broker affiliate and on respective websites of other broker affiliates;

maintaining a rules set at the central exchange computer system for the originating broker affiliate to identify tickets available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers which are to be sold directly by the originating broker affiliate to customers and which are to be posted on the website of the originating broker affiliate and to identify tickets available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by other broker affiliates which are to be posted on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates and made available for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates, the rules set specifying transaction conditions with respect to tickets available from ~~an~~ the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates and specifying posting conditions for posting tickets identified by the originating broker affiliate as available for sale to customers by the other ~~seller~~ broker affiliates on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates; and

managing electronic commerce transactions involving sales of tickets available from the originating broker affiliate ~~for sale~~ posted on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates and sold to customers by the other broker affiliates in accordance with

the transaction conditions <u>via the web inventory sharing function of the central exchange</u> <u>computer system</u>.

22.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving information from the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale directly to customers; and

sending the one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale directly to customers for posting on ~~a~~ <u>the</u> website of the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate ~~hosted by the central exchange computer system~~.

23.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, wherein the one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale directly to customers ~~comprises one or more groups~~ <u>include a group</u> of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale to customers by the ~~seller~~ <u>other broker</u> affiliates.

24.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein one or more of the respective websites of the other <u>broker</u> affiliates are hosted by the central exchange computer system.

25.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the posting conditions identify <u>broker</u> affiliates which are allowed to show ticket groups of the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate and identify <u>broker</u> affiliates which are not allowed to show ticket groups of the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the posting conditions specify a required price markup.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising posting one or more groups of tickets for sale that are not possessed by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate.

29.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

receiving a purchase order involving one or more groups of tickets that are not possessed by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate; and

managing an electronic commerce transaction conducted by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate to procure tickets for fulfilling the purchase order.

30.   (Currently Amended) One or more computer-readable storage devices storing executable computer program instructions that when executed cause a computer system to:

receive at a central exchange computer system information corresponding to tickets available for sale to customers by <u>broker</u> affiliates of the central exchange computer system;

<u>provide a web inventory sharing function at the central exchange computer system for posting tickets available from an originating broker affiliate for sale to customers on a website of the originating broker affiliate and on respective websites of other broker affiliates;</u>

maintain a rules set at the central exchange computer system <u>for the originating broker affiliate to identify tickets available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers which are to be sold directly by the originating broker affiliate to customers and which are to be posted on the website of the originating broker affiliate and to identify tickets available from the originating broker affiliate for sale to customers by other broker affiliates which are to be posted on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates and made available for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates, the rules set</u> specifying transaction conditions with respect to tickets available from ~~an~~ <u>the</u> originating <u>broker</u> affiliate for sale to customers by <u>the</u> other <u>broker</u> affiliates and specifying posting conditions for posting tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale to customers by the other ~~seller~~ <u>broker</u> affiliates on <u>the</u> respective websites of the other <u>broker</u> affiliates; and

manage electronic commerce transactions involving <u>sales of</u> tickets available from the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate ~~for sale~~ <u>posted on the respective websites of the other broker affiliates and sold</u> to customers by the other <u>broker</u> affiliates in accordance with the transaction conditions <u>via the web inventory sharing function of the central exchange computer system</u>.

31. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to:

receive information from the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate comprising one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale directly to customers; and

send the one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate as available for sale directly to customers for posting on ~~a~~ <u>the</u> website of the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate ~~hosted by the central exchange computer system~~.

32. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to host one or more of the <u>respective</u> websites of the other <u>broker</u> affiliates.

33. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, wherein the posting conditions identify <u>broker</u> affiliates which are allowed to show ticket groups of the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate and specify whether a price markup is required.

34. (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 30, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to post one or more groups of tickets for sale that are not possessed by the originating <u>broker</u> affiliate.

35.   (Currently Amended) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 34, further comprising computer program instructions that when executed cause the computer system to:

receive a purchase order involving one or more groups of tickets that are not possessed by the originating broker affiliate; and

manage an electronic commerce transaction conducted by the originating broker affiliate to procure tickets for fulfilling the purchase order.

36.   (New) The one or more computer-readable storage devices of claim 31, wherein the one or more groups of tickets identified by the originating broker affiliate as available for sale directly to customers include a group of tickets identified by the originating broker affiliate as available for sale to customers by the other broker affiliates.